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There is described a demand valve for a breathing apparatus wherein a pilot jet of the demand valve is controlled by a pivoting lever resiliently held against a planar face in which the pilot jet is formed. The pilot jet is preferably formed in a land surface surrounded by a recessed area of the planar face, and opening of the pilot jet is effected by movement of a control projection mounted on the pivoting lever. The area of the control projection is preferably greater than the area of the land surface. A bypass arrangement for a demand valve is also disclosed